

CARIBBEAN AGRO-CLIMATIC BULLETIN OF THE CARISAM



OCTOBER 2017 • VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 6

A joint bulletin of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH). As of May 2017, the previous monthly CAMI bulletin transitions into the Caribbean Agro-Climatic Bulletin of the CariSAM.

KEY MESSAGES

In an effort to enhance farm management, this and future bulletins will feature climate forecast information commencing from the subsequent month. Previous issues would have featured climate forecasts for the same month.

The agriculture industry has been hard hit from Tropical Cyclones in some territories. Meanwhile a long-term drought situation is highly likely over the central portion of The Bahamas by the end of November, and could be exacerbated by the upcoming dry season.

SEPTEMBER IN REVIEW

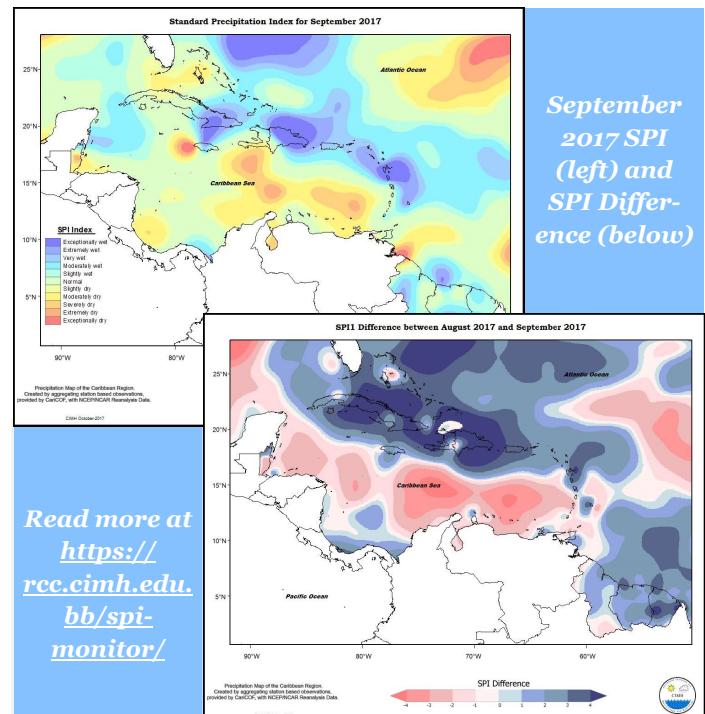
Normal to above normal rainfall was experienced over the islands of the eastern Caribbean for September 2017. Trinidad, Tobago, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia were normal; Grenada slightly wet; Barbados very to extremely wet from south to north; Martinique slight to moderately wet; Dominica and Guadeloupe exceptionally wet; Antigua moderately wet; and St. Kitts very wet. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from moderately dry in the north to extremely wet in southern Suriname and western Guyana. Aruba and Curacao were normal.

Conditions in Hispaniola ranged from slight to moderately dry in southern Haiti to exceptionally wet in most of the Dominican Republic; while Jamaica ranged from extremely wet in central areas to severely dry in the west. Grand Cayman was normal. Western Cuba was slightly dry to slightly wet, and eastern areas normal to exceptionally wet. Belize ranged from exceptionally dry in central areas to moderately dry in the south and moderately wet in the north.

Wetter conditions in September were observed predominantly across the Greater Antilles, The Leeward Islands, Barbados and the Guianas.

ABOUT CARI-SAM

The Caribbean Society for Agricultural Meteorology (CariSAM) is an online platform that hosts forums, provided online weather and climate information for agro-meteorologists, and much more. Agricultural interests can register and access relevant information and be a part of future capacity building exercises, and more. Visit us at: www.carisam.cimh.edu.bb



SEPTEMBER AGRI-NEWS

Hurricanes Irma and Maria wreaked havoc across Barbuda, Haiti, and Dominica, destroying agriculture crops, farm infrastructure, and even farmer's homes. Read more at <http://www.cta.int/en/>.

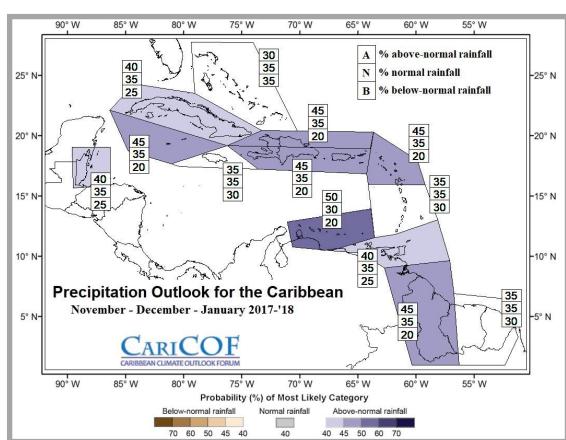
Damage assessments for affected territories can be viewed at <https://dgroups.org/?blj7h990.x1rg8vgt> and <http://www.cardi.org/blog/rebuilding-dominicas-agriculture-sector-after-hurricane-maria> respectively.

REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

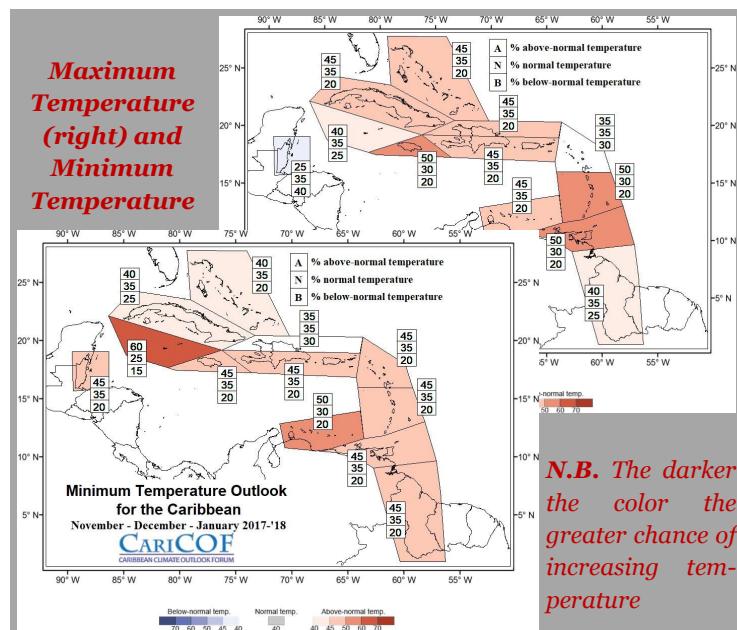
There are no concerns for short-term drought across the region, except for Haiti and the central portion of The Bahamas. **A long-term drought situation is more eminent over the central portion of The Bahamas.** Visit <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/cariocf-climate-outlooks/>

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2017–JANUARY 2018

For the months of November, December and January, **rainfall totals could meet or even exceed the expected amounts for most of the region.** There is greater uncertainty, however over The Bahamas, territories in the Eastern Caribbean (Dominica and southward to Grenada) and portions of the Guianas.



There is also the chance of increasing wet spells (from the Windward Islands and southward), which increases flash flood potential.



Even though day and night-time temperatures could be warmer than usual during the next three months (with the exception of Belize which may experience normal to below normal day-time temperatures) it may not be uncomfortable as the northern hemisphere approaches winter.

Read more at <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/heat-outlook-experimental/>



CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

The hurricane season is not officially over until November so continue to be mindful of the necessary procedures you need to take to avoid/minimize damage or loss to crops/livestock, infrastructure and human lives.

Rebuilding and Rebounding After Tropical Cyclones

Saturated soil becomes a problem for those affected by tropical cyclones, particularly in lands left denuded and where land slippage has begun.

- * Root crops and vines are more resilient than tree crops.
- * In terms of replanting, short-term crops (e.g. lettuce, Chinese cabbage or okra) could be a good option.
- * The poultry industry can also provide a quick turn around after a hurricane

As flash flood potential may be a concern in some territories, farmers are advised to:

- Maintain drains around crop beds and/or plant crops on raised beds, particularly in the central and northern portions of the region
 - House animals on high ground and/or on raised pens
- Store fertilizer away from moisture and water sources

The increasing incidences of pests and diseases could be a concern as moisture levels continue to rise. Follow the guidelines from your local agricultural representatives to effectively control pests and diseases.

Disclaimer

The information contained herein is provided with the understanding that the CARDI, and the CIMH make no warranties, either expressed or implied concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability or suitability of said information. This bulletin provides a broad overview of climate conditions up to 6 months in advance. It is recommended that stakeholders should use this information in combination with nearer term weather forecasts to guide operational decision making. The bulletin may be freely used by the public with appropriate acknowledgement of its source but shall not be

CONTACT US:

Adrian Trotman

Agro-meteorologist/ Chief of Applied Meteorology and Climatology, CIMH
Email: atrotman@cimh.edu.bb

Shontelle Stoute

Technical Officer, CIMH
Email: sstoute@cimh.edu.bb

Rasheeda Hall-Hanson

CARDI
Email: rhhanson@cardi.org